(b) if so, the details discussed and decision arrived at the meeting: and

(c) whether Government is focusing on the need to augment electricity generation, which has become imperative in light of Government's growth projects and thrust on poverty reduction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, meeting of full Planning Commission was taken by Prime Minister to discuss the draft Integrated Energy Policy for the Country.

The report of Expert Committee on Integrated Energy Policy submitted in August 2006 forms the basis for formulation of the proposed Integrated Energy Policy. The policy document proposes an approach for optimal supply & utilization of energy and the creation of a competitive energy market in India. Nuclear energy remains an important element of India's energy mix.

It was decided that the proposed Integrated Energy Policy be submitted for the Cabinet approval.

(c) Yes Sir.

Utilisation of funds in Government schemes

721. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether utilization of funds is the main problem in Government schemes;

(b) whether utilization of money meant for various schemes of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development have fallen short of achievement targets in a majority of its big schemes;

(c) if so, the other Ministries which have not been able to utilize funds for the schemes; and

(d) if so, the action Government has taken on these Ministries and to what extent Government is considering to see that all the schemes where funds have been provided are fully utilized by Ministries concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) The Information is being collected will be laid on the Table of the House.

Special category status to Rajasthan

†722.DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of various special conditions such as two-third desert and drought-prone area, vast international border abutting Pakistan etc. Government is contemplating to grant special category status to Rajasthan similar to North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Manipur and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.